

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7399

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: THAI/LAO FRICTION AND RTG DISHARMONY

REF: A. FBIS BK 120200Y JULY 75

B. FBIS 120205Y JULY 75

21. TWO ARTICLES ON THE FRONT PAGES OF THE BANGKOK ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MORNING PAPERS JULY 12 (REFERENCES) ARE INDICATIVE OF THE PROBLEMS THE PRESENCE OF LAO RIGHTISTS ARE CAUSING THAILAND. THEY ALSO INDICATE FACTIONALISM IN THE RTG.

2. REF A QUOTES AN OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED "HIGH-RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL "AS ATTRIBUTING THE RECENT PATHET LAO ATTACKS ON THAI MEKONG RIVER PATROL UNITS TO THE FACT THAT THAILAND IS SHELTERING FORMER LAO RIGHTIST OFFICIALS. REF B QUOTES "A RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL," PRESUMABLY THE SAME SOURCE, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE THAI MILITARY IS PROTECTING SENIOR LAO RIGHTISTS IN THAILAND DESPITE LAO PROTESTS. HE NOTED THAT THIS MILITARY PROTECTION IS AGAINST RTG POLICY.

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3. COMMENT. THE PUBLIC AIRING OF AN INTERNAL THAI

DISPUTE OVER THE HANDLING OF LAO REFUGEES WILL NOT
PROMOTE RTG HARMONY. WE WILL FOLLOW UP TO ASCERTAIN
THE IDENTITY OF THE OFFICIAL QUOTED.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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